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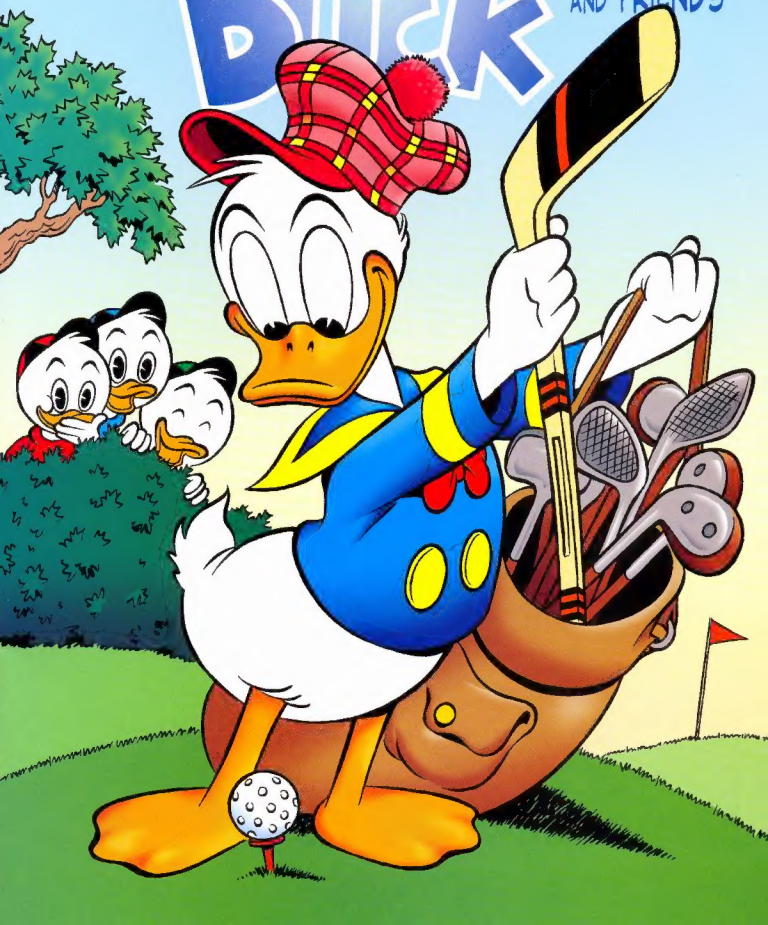
WALT DISNEY'S

# DONALD DUCK

AND FRIENDS



# DONALD DUCK AND FRIENDS

For a "Humble, Bumbling Duck," Donald Duck is certainly well-travelled. Through the years and at the hands of various creators, he has visited literally every corner of this globe, both inside and out, and has even done his share of interplanetary travel. And he's encountered his share of the fantastic, from elves, pixies and Peeweegahs to dinosaurs, will-o-the-wisps and dragons! And yet Donald continues to refer to his life as "humdrum." Is he crazy? How could he stand any more excitement than he's already got?

I suspect Donald is in truth an overachiever. Whenever he accepts an assignment that's even a little ordinary, he considers it boring, because it pales in comparison to his more far-out adventures. After all, as extraordinary as working in a skunk oil factory (one of Donald's perennial jobs) may be, it can't hold a candle to dodging underground-dwelling Terries and Fermies or matching fighting skills with the champion of the Gneezles. Unless the excitement level is high, Donald just doesn't think it's worth doing!

And talk about overachievers. Take a look at Donald's cohort in these pages, Mickey Mouse. If there ever was a guy who lived for adventure, it's Mickey, who has matched wits with some of the craftiest and most dastardly (dare I say super-) villains in the game, from Peg-Leg Pete to the Phantom Blot. The big diffeence between Mickey and Donald, I'd say, is Mickey seems for the most part to actually enjoy some moments of peace and quiet between adventures. Maybe that's because he owns a dog. Perhaps Pluto helps ground him to a home life just a little more than just a girlfriend or nephews can do. I never realized until this moment the importance of having a good relationship with a pet.

*— John Clark*

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**Color:** Egmont & Scott Rockwell
**Lettering:** Gary Leach

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**Story:** Sarah Kinney
**Art:** David
**Color:** Michael Kraiger
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***Donald Duck*** **A DUCK IN THE WORKS**
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**Art:** Cardona
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*Front cover art by Daniel Branca, color by Gary Leach*

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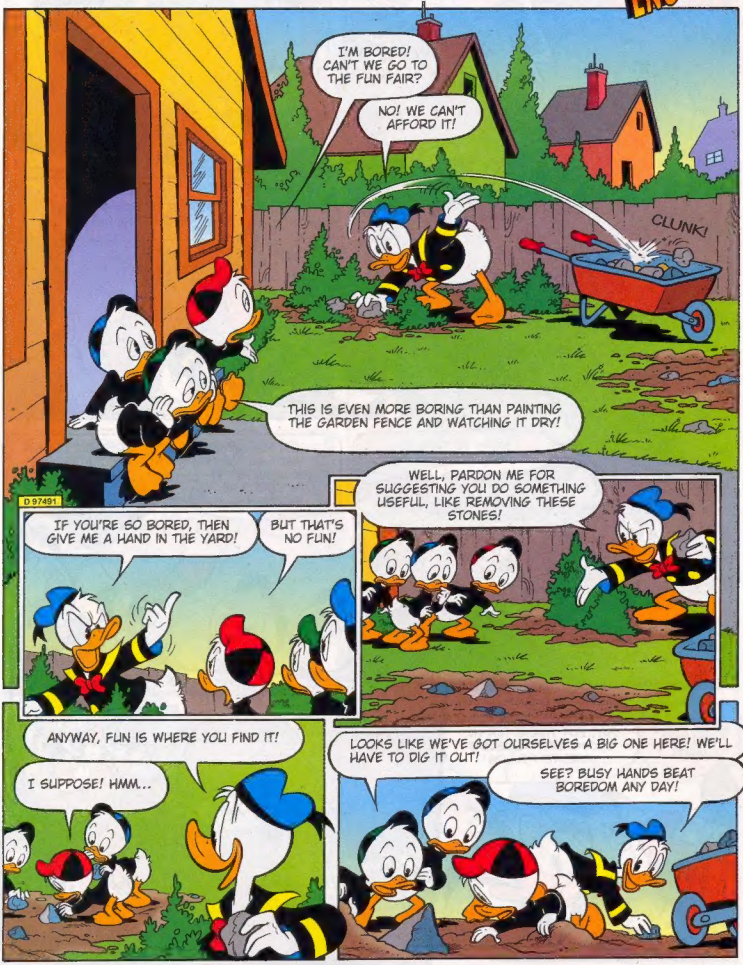
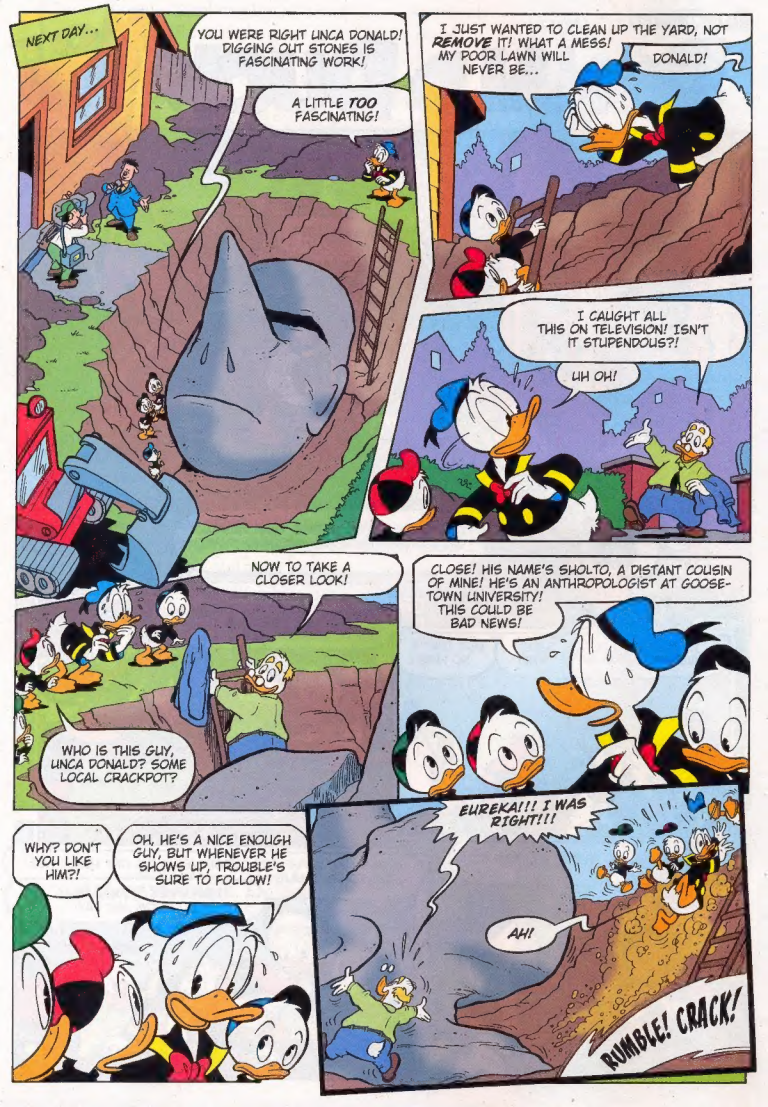
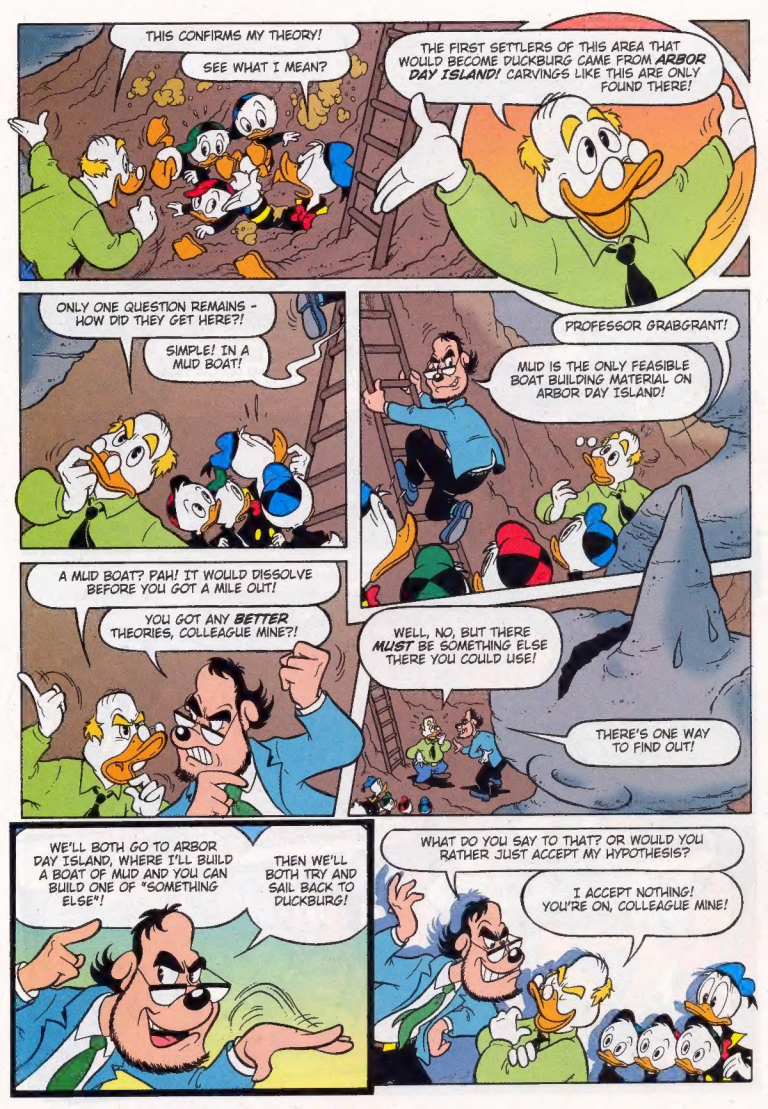
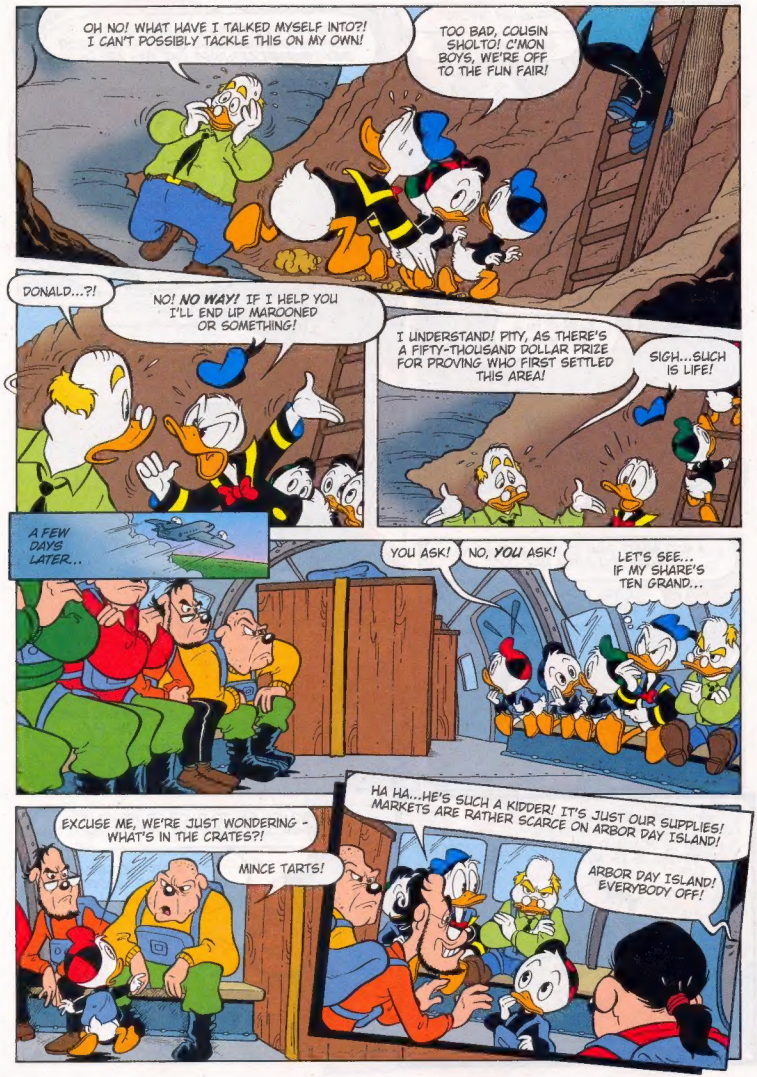
# DONALD DUCK in NOT DISTANT ENOUGH

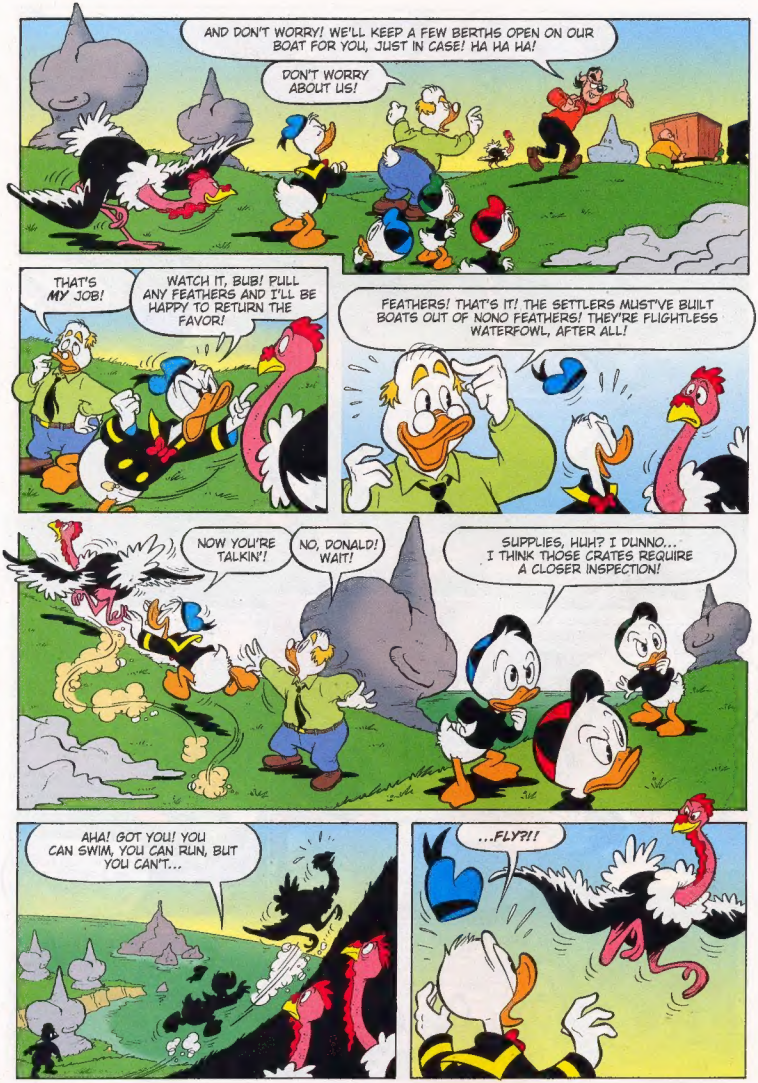

I'M BORED! CAN'T WE GO TO THE FUN FAIR?
NO! WE CAN'T AFFORD IT!
CLUNK!
THIS IS EVEN MORE BORING THAN PAINTING THE GARDEN FENCE AND WATCHING IT DRY!
D 97491
IF YOU'RE SO BORED, THEN GIVE ME A HAND IN THE YARD!
BUT THAT'S NO FUN!
WELL, PARDON ME FOR SUGGESTING YOU DO SOMETHING USEFUL, LIKE REMOVING THESE STONES!
ANYWAY, FUN IS WHERE YOU FIND IT!
I SUPPOSE! HMM...
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT OURSELVES A BIG ONE HERE! WE'LL HAVE TO DIG IT OUT!
SEE? BUSY HANDS BEAT BOREDOM ANY DAY!

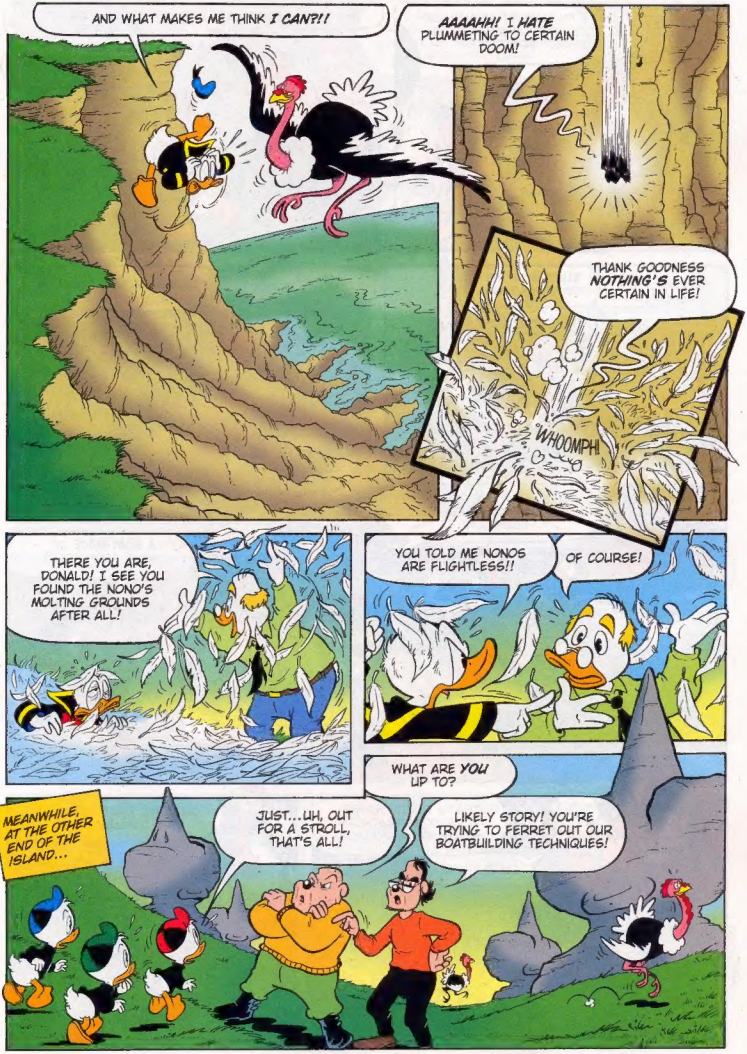

NEXT DAY...
YOU WERE RIGHT UNCA DONALD! DIGGING OUT STONES IS FASCINATING WORK!
A LITTLE TOO FASCINATING!
I JUST WANTED TO CLEAN UP THE YARD, NOT REMOVE IT! WHAT A MESS! MY POOR LAWN WILL NEVER BE...
DONALD!
I CAUGHT ALL THIS ON TELEVISION! ISN'T IT STUPENDOUS?!
UH OH!
NOW TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK!
WHO IS THIS GUY, UNCA DONALD? SOME LOCAL CRACKPOT?
CLOSE! HIS NAME'S SHOLTO, A DISTANT COUSIN OF MINE! HE'S AN ANTHROPOLOGIST AT GOOSE-TOWN UNIVERSITY! THIS COULD BE BAD NEWS!
WHY? DON'T YOU LIKE HIM?!
OH, HE'S A NICE ENOUGH GUY, BUT WHENEVER HE SHOWS UP, TROUBLE'S SURE TO FOLLOW!
EUREKA!!! I WAS RIGHT!!!
AH!
RUMBLE! CRACK!

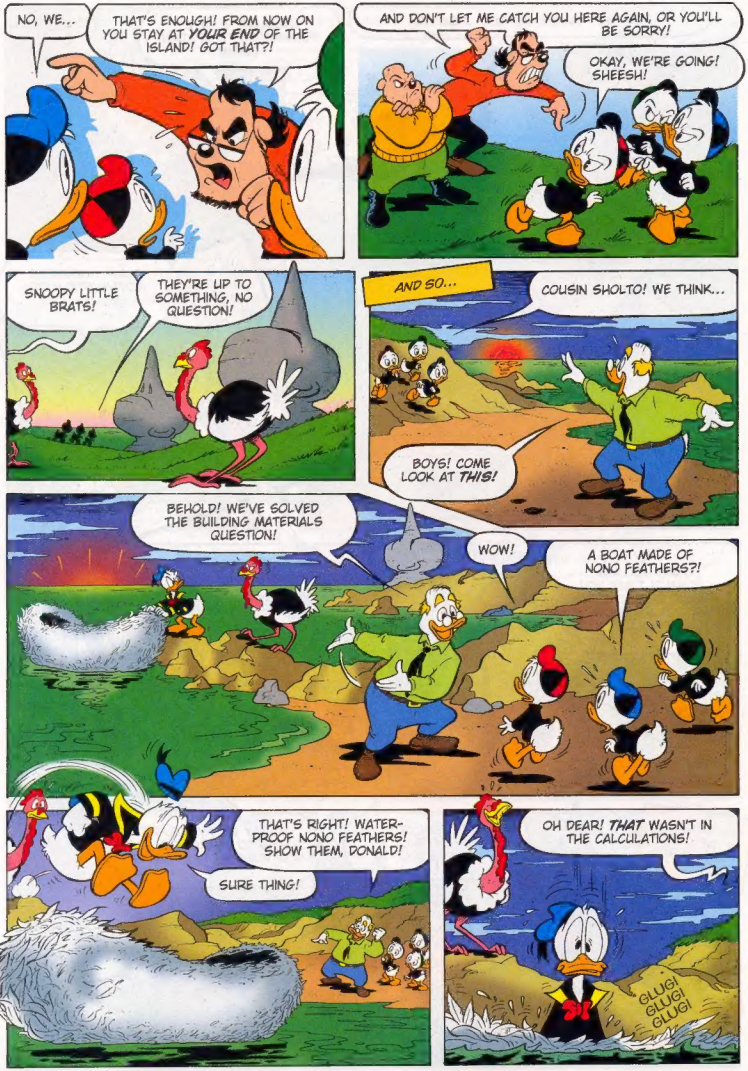

THIS CONFIRMS MY THEORY!
SEE WHAT I MEAN?
THE FIRST SETTLERS OF THIS AREA THAT WOULD BECOME DUCKBURG CAME FROM ARBOR DAY ISLAND! CARVINGS LIKE THIS ARE ONLY FOUND THERE!
ONLY ONE QUESTION REMAINS - HOW DID THEY GET HERE?!
SIMPLE! IN A MUD BOAT!
PROFESSOR GRABGRANT!
MUD IS THE ONLY FEASIBLE BOAT BUILDING MATERIAL ON ARBOR DAY ISLAND!
A MUD BOAT? PAH! IT WOULD DISSOLVE BEFORE YOU GOT A MILE OUT!
YOU GOT ANY BETTER THEORIES, COLLEAGUE MINE?!
WELL, NO, BUT THERE MUST BE SOMETHING ELSE THERE YOU COULD USE!
THERE'S ONE WAY TO FIND OUT!
WE'LL BOTH GO TO ARBOR DAY ISLAND, WHERE I'LL BUILD A BOAT OF MUD AND YOU CAN BUILD ONE OF "SOMETHING ELSE"!
THEN WE'LL BOTH TRY AND SAIL BACK TO DUCKBURG!
WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THAT? OR WOULD YOU RATHER JUST ACCEPT MY HYPOTHESIS?
I ACCEPT NOTHING! YOU'RE ON, COLLEAGUE MINE!


OH NO! WHAT HAVE I TALKED MYSELF INTO?! I CAN'T POSSIBLY TACKLE THIS ON MY OWN!
TOO BAD, COUSIN SHOLTO! C'MON BOYS, WE'RE OFF TO THE FUN FAIR!
DONALD...?!
NO! NO WAY! IF I HELP YOU I'LL END UP MAROONED OR SOMETHING!
I UNDERSTAND! PITY, AS THERE'S A FIFTY-THOUSAND DOLLAR PRIZE FOR PROVING WHO FIRST SETTLED THIS AREA!
SIGH...SUCH IS LIFE!
A FEW DAYS LATER...
YOU ASK!
NO, YOU ASK!
LET'S SEE... IF MY SHARE'S TEN GRAND...
EXCUSE ME, WE'RE JUST WONDERING - WHAT'S IN THE CRATES?!
MINCE TARTS!
HA HA...HE'S SUCH A KIDDER! IT'S JUST OUR SUPPLIES! MARKETS ARE RATHER SCARCE ON ARBOR DAY ISLAND!
ARBOR DAY ISLAND! EVERYBODY OFF!

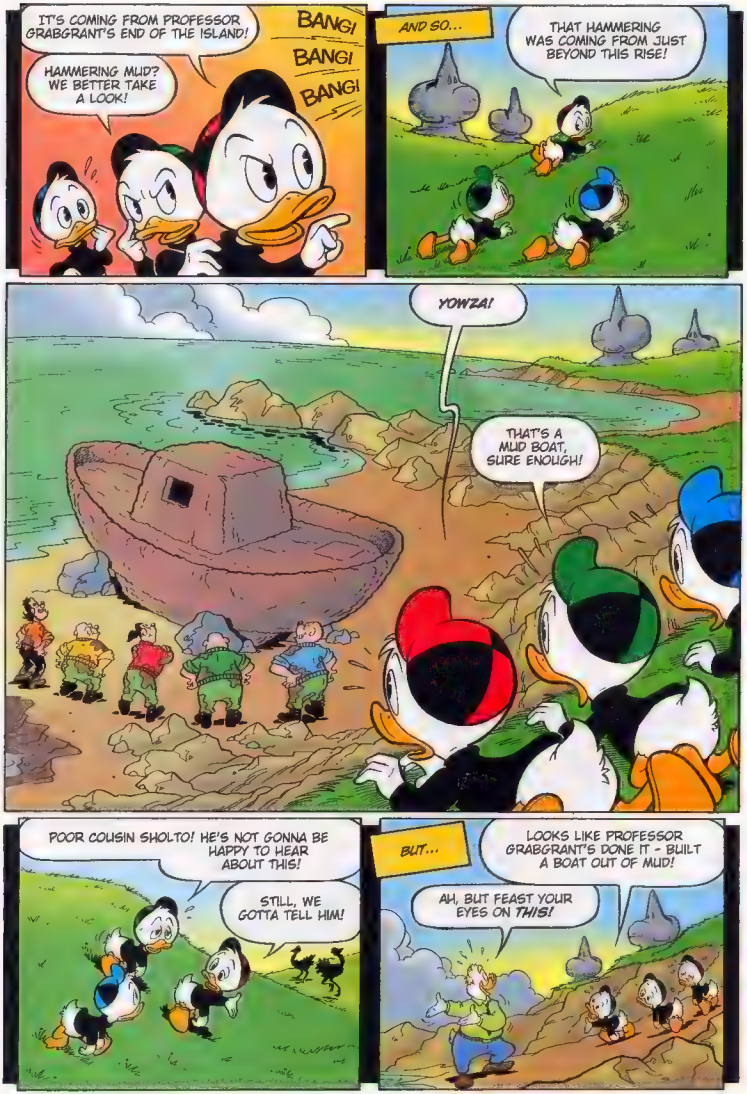
BOAT-BUILDING FACILITIES LOOK RATHER SCARCE, TOO!
I DIDN'T FIGURE THIS WOULD BE EASY! OF COURSE, IT MAY BE DOWNRIGHT IMPOSSIBLE! THEORIES DON'T ALWAYS PAN OUT!
NOW HE TELLS US!
THERE'S AN ODD-LOOKING DUCK!
THAT'S A NONO, A SPECIES OF RAIL UNIQUE TO THIS ISLAND!
SQUAWK!
OW!
SNAP!
OH DEAR! IT MAY NOT HAVE TAKEN TO BEING CALLED "ODD-LOOKING!"
I'LL DO WORSE THAN THAT -
WHOA! THE NONO IS A PROTECTED SPECIES!
AH, SHOLTO! WE'RE OFF TO THE FAR END OF THE ISLAND TO BUILD OUR BOAT! GOOD LUCK ON YOUR END!

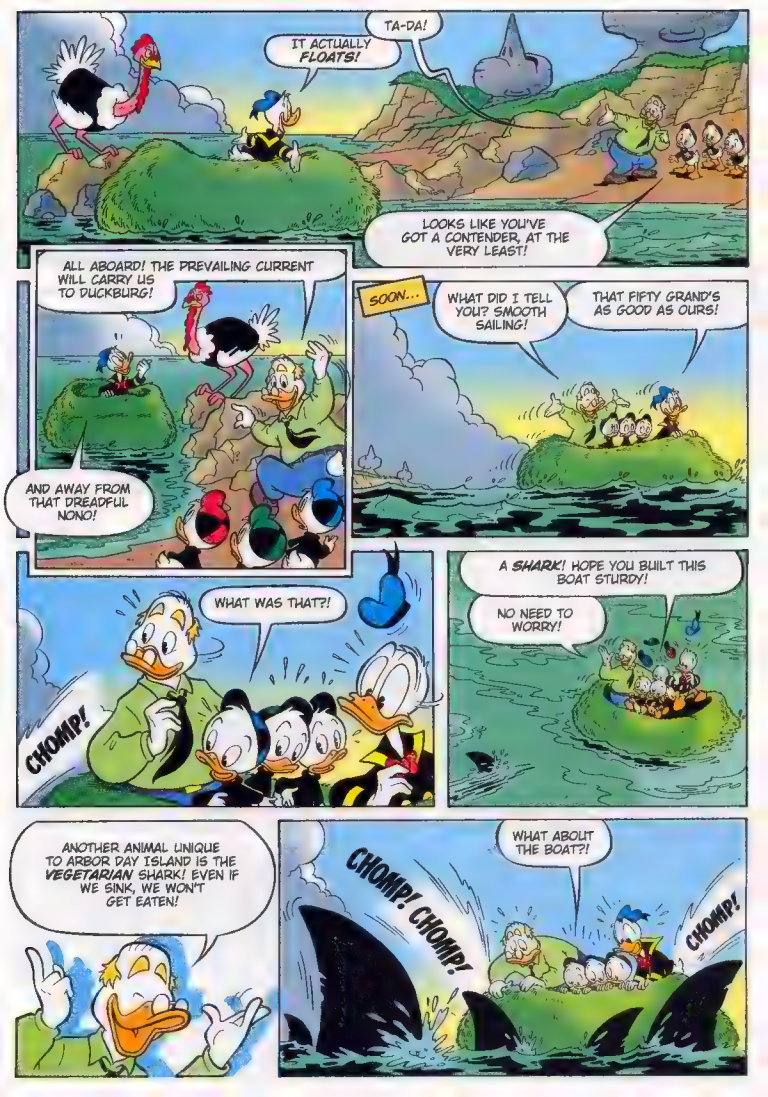

AND DON'T WORRY! WE'LL KEEP A FEW BERTHS OPEN ON OUR BOAT FOR YOU, JUST IN CASE! HA HA HA!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT US!
THAT'S MY JOB!
WATCH IT, BUB! PULL ANY FEATHERS AND I'LL BE HAPPY TO RETURN THE FAVOR!
FEATHERS! THAT'S IT! THE SETTLERS MUST'VE BUILT BOATS OUT OF NONO FEATHERS! THEY'RE FLIGHTLESS WATERFOWL, AFTER ALL!
NOW YOU'RE TALKIN'!
NO, DONALD! WAIT!
SUPPLIES, HUH? I DUNNO... I THINK THOSE CRATES REQUIRE A CLOSER INSPECTION!
AHA! GOT YOU! YOU CAN SWIM, YOU CAN RUN, BUT YOU CAN'T...
...FLY?!!

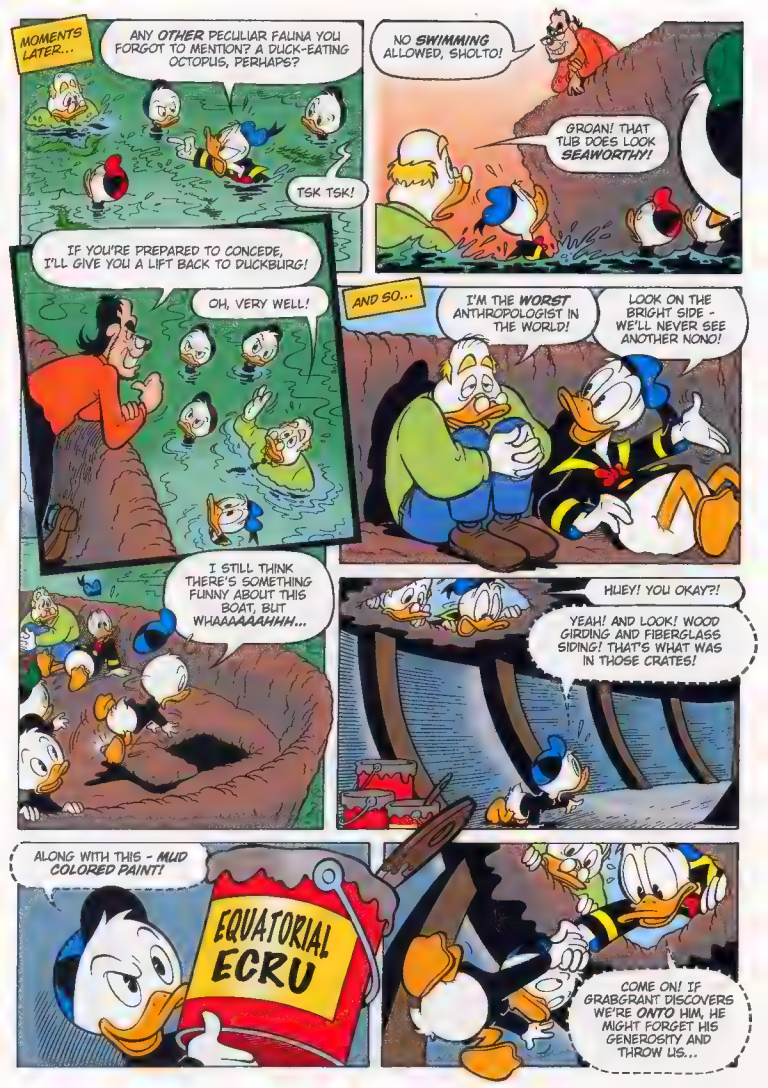

AND WHAT MAKES ME THINK I CAN?!!
AAAAHH! I HATE PLUMMETING TO CERTAIN DOOM!
THANK GOODNESS NOTHING'S EVER CERTAIN IN LIFE!
WHOOMPH!
THERE YOU ARE, DONALD! I SEE YOU FOUND THE NONO'S MOLTING GROUNDS AFTER ALL!
YOU TOLD ME NONOS ARE FLIGHTLESS!!
OF COURSE!
MEANWHILE, AT THE OTHER END OF THE ISLAND...
JUST...UH, OUT FOR A STROLL, THAT'S ALL!
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?
LIKELY STORY! YOU'RE TRYING TO FERRET OUT OUR BOATBUILDING TECHNIQUES!

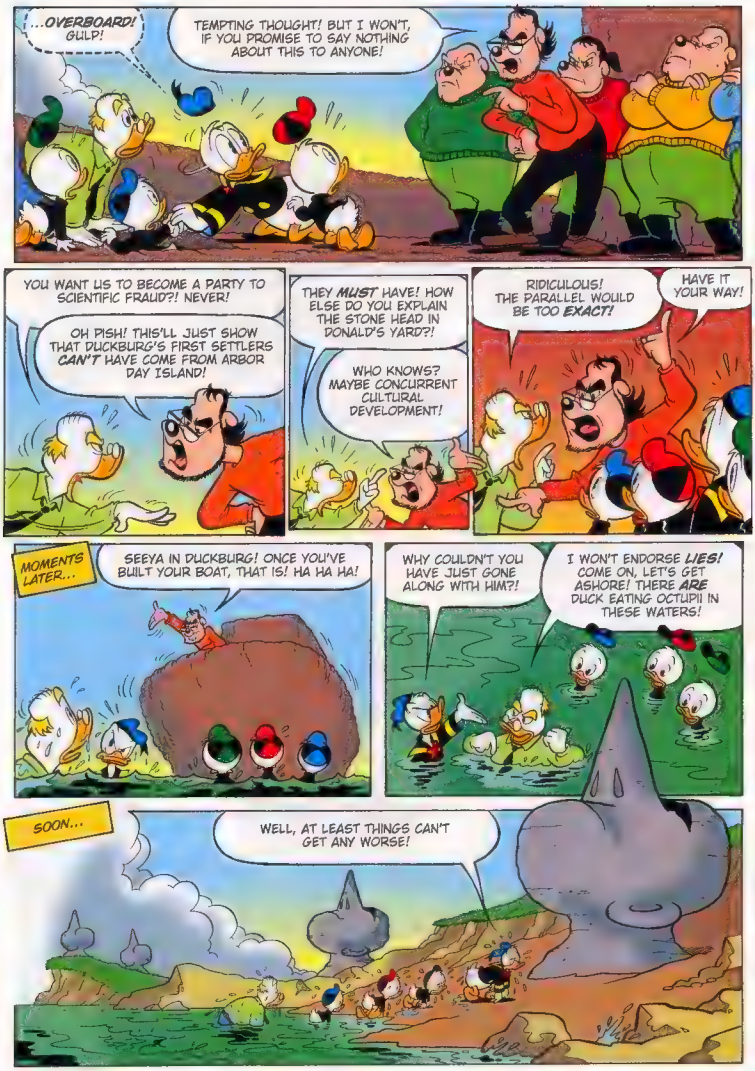

NO, WE...
THAT'S ENOUGH! FROM NOW ON YOU STAY AT *YOUR END* OF THE ISLAND! GOT THAT?!
AND DON'T LET ME CATCH YOU HERE AGAIN, OR YOU'LL BE SORRY!
OKAY, WE'RE GOING! SHEESH!
SNOOPY LITTLE BRATS!
THEY'RE UP TO SOMETHING, NO QUESTION!
*AND SO...*
COUSIN SHOLTO! WE THINK...
BOYS! COME LOOK AT *THIS!*
BEHOLD! WE'VE SOLVED THE BUILDING MATERIALS QUESTION!
WOW!
A BOAT MADE OF NONO FEATHERS?!
THAT'S RIGHT! WATER-PROOF NONO FEATHERS! SHOW THEM, DONALD!
SURE THING!
OH DEAR! *THAT* WASN'T IN THE CALCULATIONS!
GLUG! GLUG! GLUG!

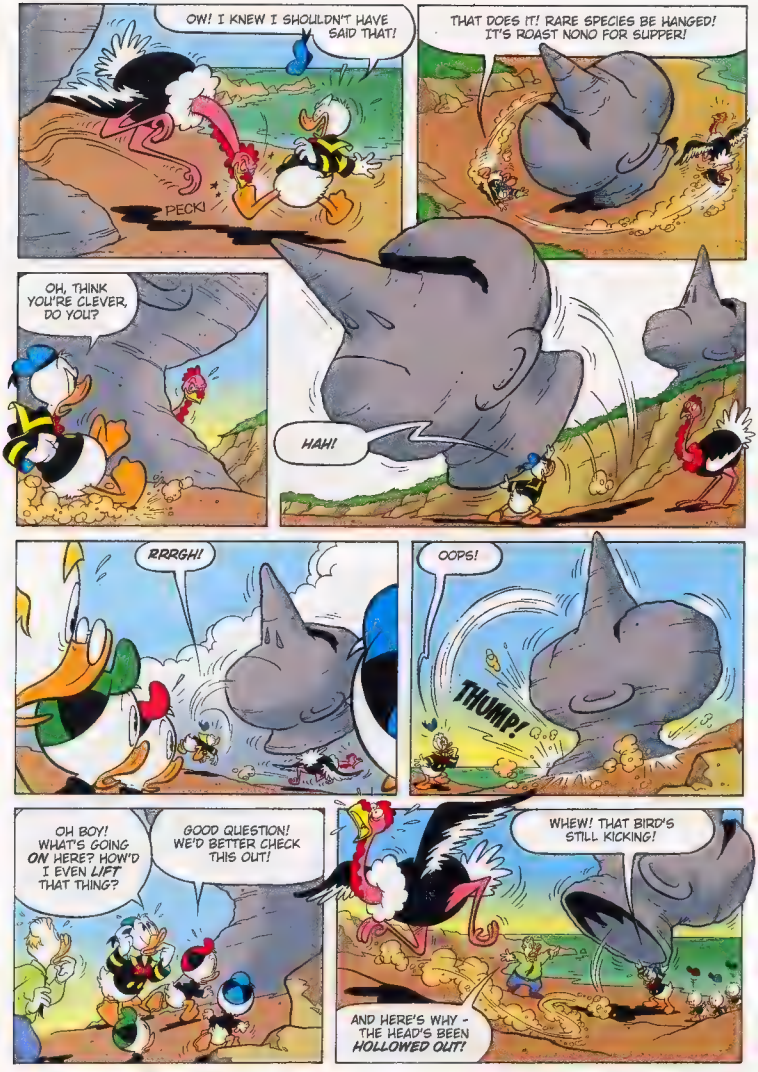
I REALIZE MY ERROR! PENGUINS ARE FLIGHTLESS SWIMMERS, WHILE NONOS ARE NONAQUATIC FLIERS!
I'M SO GLAD WE CLEARED THAT UP!
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
GET SOME SLEEP! I DO SOME OF MY BEST THINKING THAT WAY!
NEXT MORNING...
SO? DID DREAMLAND PROVIDE ANY INSPIRATION?
ABOUT BUILDING BOATS? NO, NOT A NOTION!
I KNEW IT! I KNEW IT! MAROONED! STUCK FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES ON THIS STUPID ISLAND!
WE'LL EXHAUST OUR SUPPLIES AND BE REDUCED TO EATING GRASS!
OF COURSE! GRASS! WE'LL BUILD A BOAT OUT OF GRASS!
WAKE UP BOYS! WE'RE ON OUR WAY!
LATER...
A GRASS BOAT? IF THAT DOESN'T WORK, WHAT NEXT? SEAWEED?
SHHH! YOU HEAR THAT?!
BANG! BANG! BANG!


IT'S COMING FROM PROFESSOR GRABGRANT'S END OF THE ISLAND!
BANG!
BANG!
BANG!
HAMMERING MUD? WE BETTER TAKE A LOOK!
AND SO...
THAT HAMMERING WAS COMING FROM JUST BEYOND THIS RISE!
YOWZA!
THAT'S A MUD BOAT, SURE ENOUGH!
POOR COUSIN SHOLTO! HE'S NOT GONNA BE HAPPY TO HEAR ABOUT THIS!
STILL, WE GOTTA TELL HIM!
BUT...
LOOKS LIKE PROFESSOR GRABGRANT'S DONE IT - BUILT A BOAT OUT OF MUD!
AH, BUT FEAST YOUR EYES ON *THIS!*

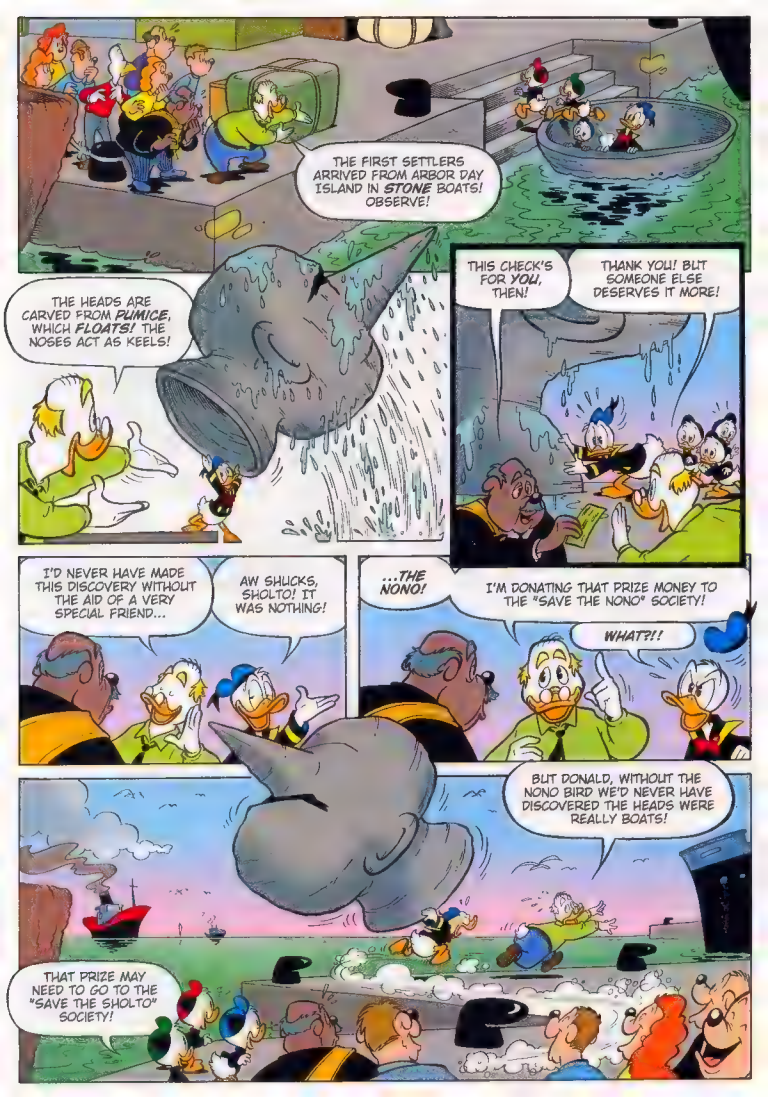

TA-DA!
IT ACTUALLY FLOATS!
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT A CONTENDER, AT THE VERY LEAST!
ALL ABOARD! THE PREVAILING CURRENT WILL CARRY US TO DUCKBURG!
AND AWAY FROM THAT DREADFUL NONO!
SOON...
WHAT DID I TELL YOU? SMOOTH SAILING!
THAT FIFTY GRAND'S AS GOOD AS OURS!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
CHOMP!
A SHARK! HOPE YOU BUILT THIS BOAT STURDY!
NO NEED TO WORRY!
ANOTHER ANIMAL UNIQUE TO ARBOR DAY ISLAND IS THE VEGETARIAN SHARK! EVEN IF WE SINK, WE WON'T GET EATEN!
WHAT ABOUT THE BOAT?!
CHOMP! CHOMP!
CHOMP!


MOMENTS LATER...
ANY OTHER PECULIAR FAUNA YOU FORGOT TO MENTION? A DUCK-EATING OCTOPUS, PERHAPS?
TSK TSK!
NO SWIMMING ALLOWED, SHOLTO!
GROAN! THAT TUB DOES LOOK SEAWORTHY!
IF YOU'RE PREPARED TO CONCEDE, I'LL GIVE YOU A LIFT BACK TO DUCKBURG!
OH, VERY WELL!
AND SO...
I'M THE WORST ANTHROPOLOGIST IN THE WORLD!
LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE - WE'LL NEVER SEE ANOTHER NONO!
I STILL THINK THERE'S SOMETHING FUNNY ABOUT THIS BOAT, BUT WHAAAAAAHHH...
HUEY! YOU OKAY?!
YEAH! AND LOOK! WOOD GIRDING AND FIBERGLASS SIDING! THAT'S WHAT WAS IN THOSE CRATES!
ALONG WITH THIS - MUD COLORED PAINT!
EQUATORIAL ECRU
COME ON! IF GRABGRANT DISCOVERS WE'RE ONTO HIM, HE MIGHT FORGET HIS GENEROSITY AND THROW US...

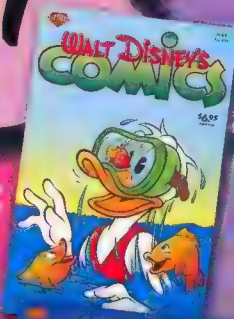

...OVERBOARD! GULP!
TEMPTING THOUGHT! BUT I WON'T, IF YOU PROMISE TO SAY NOTHING ABOUT THIS TO ANYONE!
YOU WANT US TO BECOME A PARTY TO SCIENTIFIC FRAUD?! NEVER!
OH PISH! THIS'LL JUST SHOW THAT DUCKBURG'S FIRST SETTLERS CAN'T HAVE COME FROM ARBOR DAY ISLAND!
THEY MUST HAVE! HOW ELSE DO YOU EXPLAIN THE STONE HEAD IN DONALD'S YARD?!
WHO KNOWS? MAYBE CONCURRENT CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT!
RIDICULOUS! THE PARALLEL WOULD BE TOO EXACT!
HAVE IT YOUR WAY!
MOMENTS LATER...
SEEYA IN DUCKBURG! ONCE YOU'VE BUILT YOUR BOAT, THAT IS! HA HA HA!
WHY COULDN'T YOU HAVE JUST GONE ALONG WITH HIM?!
I WON'T ENDORSE LIES! COME ON, LET'S GET ASHORE! THERE ARE DUCK EATING OCTUPII IN THESE WATERS!
SOON...
WELL, AT LEAST THINGS CAN'T GET ANY WORSE!

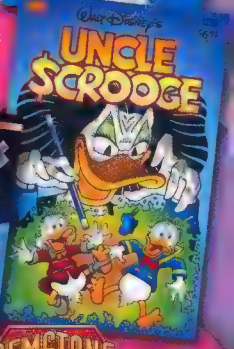

OW! I KNEW I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT!
PECK!
THAT DOES IT! RARE SPECIES BE HANGED! IT'S ROAST NONO FOR SUPPER!
OH, THINK YOU'RE CLEVER, DO YOU?
HAH!
RRRGH!
OOPS!
THUMP!
OH BOY! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? HOW'D I EVEN LIFT THAT THING?
GOOD QUESTION! WE'D BETTER CHECK THIS OUT!
WHEW! THAT BIRD'S STILL KICKING!
AND HERE'S WHY - THE HEAD'S BEEN HOLLOWED OUT!

EVEN SO, IT SHOULD STILL WEIGH AT LEAST FOUR OR FIVE TONS!
NOPE! TRY IT!
I'LL BE JIGGERED! IT'S PUMICE! HOORAY!
HOORAY?
THREE WEEKS LATER...
FOR PROVING THAT EARLY SETTLERS TO THIS AREA COULD HAVE COME FROM ARBOR DAY ISLAND, I PRESENT YOU, PROFESSOR GRABGRANT, WITH THIS CHECK FOR FIFTY-THOUSAND DOLLARS!
HOLD IT!
ALL HE'S PROVED IS HE'S A LIAR AND A CHEAT!
THAT BOAT ISN'T MADE OF MUD!
SCRITCH!
SEE? FIBERGLASS UNDERNEATH!
EW! WHAT A NOISE!
BUT...BUT THIS IS A SWINDLE!
I'M OUTTA HERE!


THE FIRST SETTLERS ARRIVED FROM ARBOR DAY ISLAND IN *STONE* BOATS! OBSERVE!
THE HEADS ARE CARVED FROM *PUMICE*, WHICH *FLOATS!* THE NOSES ACT AS KEELS!
THIS CHECK'S FOR *YOU*, THEN!
THANK YOU! BUT SOMEONE ELSE DESERVES IT MORE!
I'D NEVER HAVE MADE THIS DISCOVERY WITHOUT THE AID OF A VERY SPECIAL FRIEND...
AW SHUCKS, SHOLTO! IT WAS NOTHING!
...*THE NONO!*
I'M DONATING THAT PRIZE MONEY TO THE "SAVE THE NONO" SOCIETY!
*WHAT?!!*
BUT DONALD, WITHOUT THE NONO BIRD WE'D NEVER HAVE DISCOVERED THE HEADS WERE REALLY BOATS!
THAT PRIZE MAY NEED TO GO TO THE "SAVE THE SHOLTO" SOCIETY!

# MORE Disney excitement TO COME!



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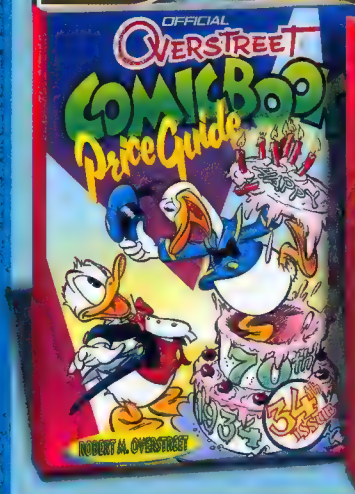
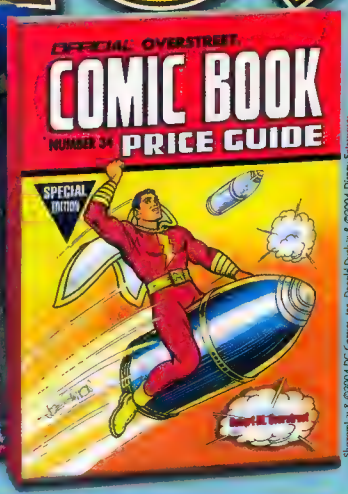
# ANOTHER DYNAMIC DUO!

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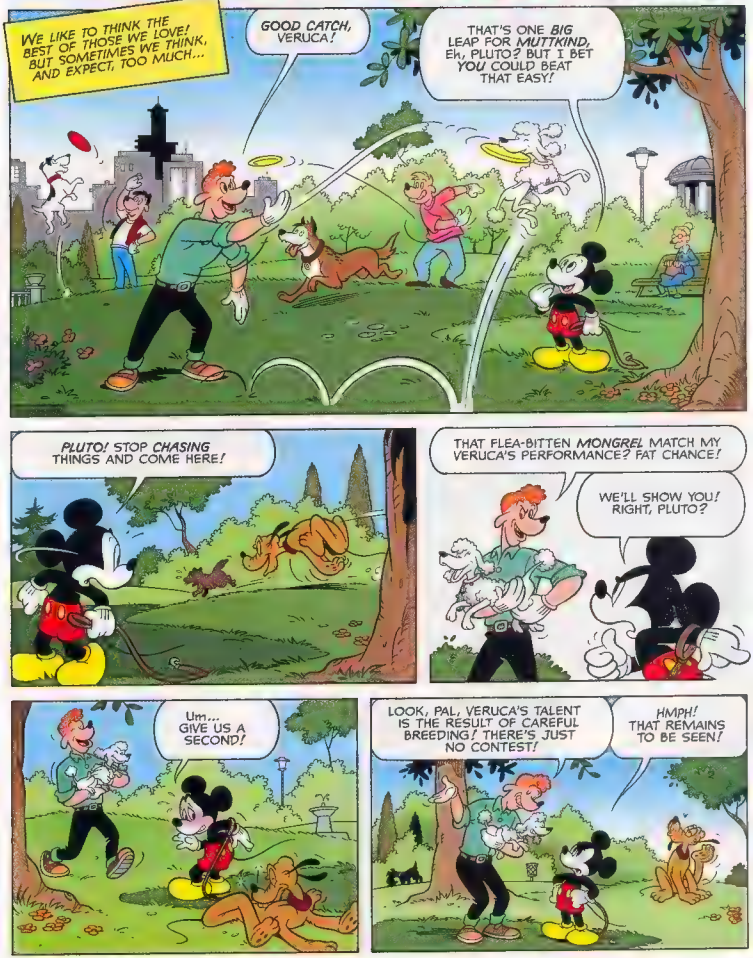
# MICKEY MOUSE

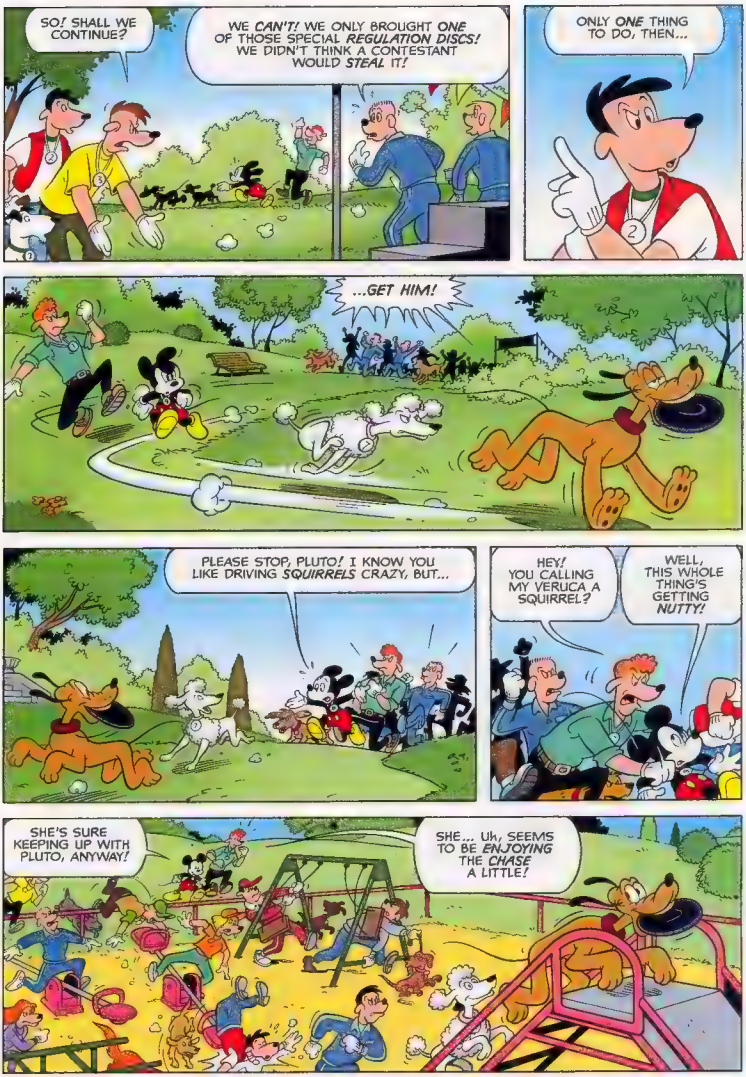
## MASCOT TRAINING


WE LIKE TO THINK THE BEST OF THOSE WE LOVE! BUT SOMETIMES WE THINK, AND EXPECT, TOO MUCH...
GOOD CATCH, VERUCA!
THAT'S ONE BIG LEAP FOR MUTTKIND, Eh, PLUTO? BUT I BET YOU COULD BEAT THAT EASY!
PLUTO! STOP CHASING THINGS AND COME HERE!
THAT FLEA-BITTEN MONGREL MATCH MY VERUCA'S PERFORMANCE? FAT CHANCE!
WE'LL SHOW YOU! RIGHT, PLUTO?
Um... GIVE US A SECOND!
LOOK, PAL, VERUCA'S TALENT IS THE RESULT OF CAREFUL BREEDING! THERE'S JUST NO CONTEST!
HMPH! THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN!

OKAY THEN, SIGN UP YOUR MUTT FOR THIS! THE WINNING DOG BECOMES MASCOT OF THE MUNICIPAL FRISBEE TEAM!
MASCOT CONTEST!
BEST FRISBEE TRICK DOG
IT OUGHTA BE GOOD FOR A LAUGH, ANYWAY!
YOU WON'T BE LAUGHING WHEN PLUTO WINS THAT PRIZE!
INTENSIVE TRAINING BEGINS...
ATTA BOY, PLUTO! I KNEW YOU HAD IT IN YOU!
Huh? YOU WEREN'T CHASING THE FRISBEE! YOU'RE AFTER THAT SQUIRREL!
IF YOU HAFTA CHASE SOMETHING, WHY CAN'T IT BE THE FRISBEE? DON'T YOU WANNA WIN THAT CONTEST?
LET'S TRY IT NICE AND EASY...
SHEESH! THIS IS GETTING RIDICULOUS!

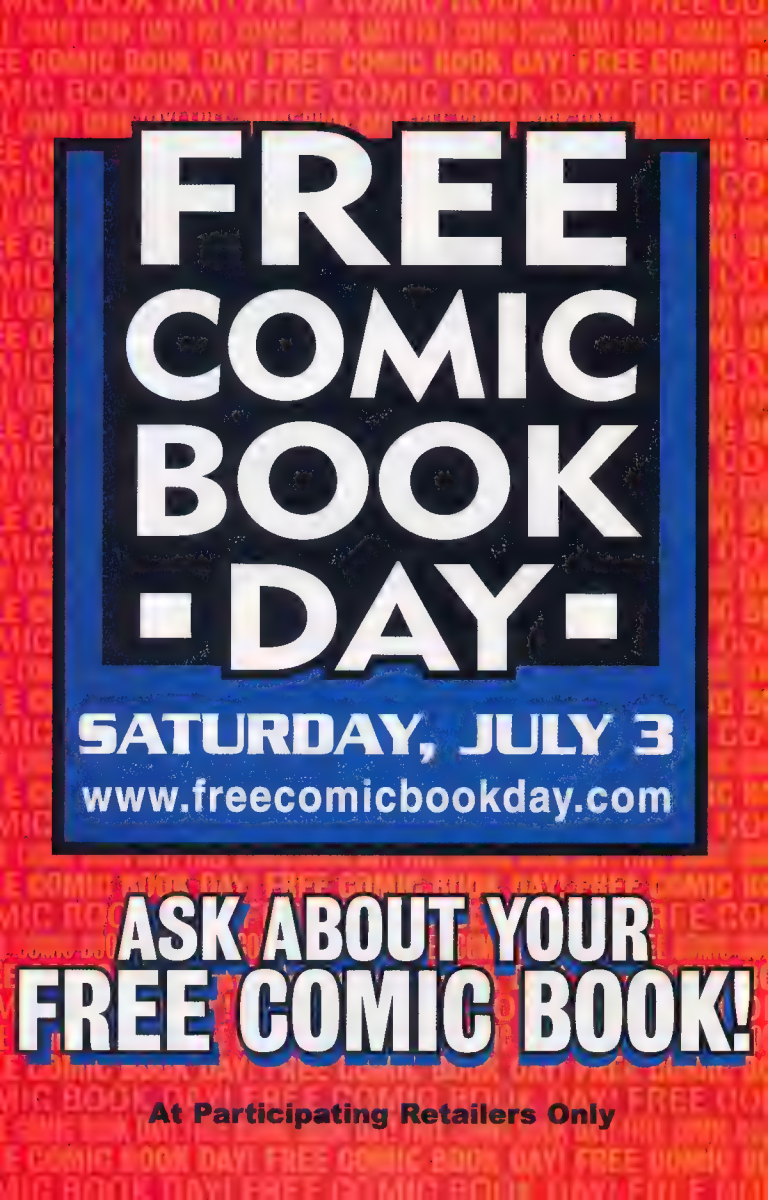
DON'T YOU REALIZE HOW FUN IT IS TO PLAY A GAME AND WIN A PRIZE?
MICKEY TAKES PLUTO BACK TO THE PARK...
YOU JUST NEED THE RIGHT ENVIRONMENT AND A DEMONSTRATION! KEEP ONE EYE ON THE FRISBEE, AND...
...JUMP!
AND CATCH! GLOMPF!
HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!
ATTA BOY, PAL! THAT'S THE STUFF! CAN YOU ROLL OVER AND PLAY DEAD, TOO? HA-HA-HA!
YIP-YIP-YIP!

THE DAY OF THE CONTEST ARRIVES, BUT PLUTO REMAINS DIFFIDENT...
NEXT UP, #7— VERUCA! PLEASE BEGIN!
MASCOT CONTEST!
OKAY, PLUTO! JUST TRY NOT TO COME IN LAST!
!!
GEE BOY, WHERE'S YOUR COMPETITIVE SPIRIT? DON'T YOU WANT TO SHOW EVERYONE WHAT YOU'RE MADE OF?
HAH! SOME DOGS JUST AREN'T MADE OF MUCH, EH, VERUCA?
YIP!
GRRR!
OKAY, BABY! JUST LIKE WE PRACTICED! CATCH!
WOOF! WOOF!
NO, PLUTO! IT'S NOT OUR TURN!
GROWR! YIP! YIP!
HE'S SABOTAGED MY DARLING VERUCA!
PLUTO! YOU PUT THAT DOWN AT ONCE!


SO! SHALL WE CONTINUE?
WE CAN'T! WE ONLY BROUGHT ONE OF THOSE SPECIAL REGULATION DISCS! WE DIDN'T THINK A CONTESTANT WOULD STEAL IT!
ONLY ONE THING TO DO, THEN...
...GET HIM!
PLEASE STOP, PLUTO! I KNOW YOU LIKE DRIVING SQUIRRELS CRAZY, BUT...
HEY! YOU CALLING MY VERUCA A SQUIRREL?
WELL, THIS WHOLE THING'S GETTING NUTTY!
SHE'S SURE KEEPING UP WITH PLUTO, ANYWAY!
SHE... Uh, SEEMS TO BE ENJOYING THE CHASE A LITTLE!

OOF!
YIP!
!
YAP!
WOW! LOOK AT THOSE DOGS!
LOOK AT THAT CROWD!
CRASH!
LOOK AT THIS MESS! IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D THINK PLUTO WAS TRYING TO TELL US CHASES ARE MORE FUN THAN CONTESTS!
WOOF!
MORE FUN FOR HIM, PERHAPS, BUT NOT FOR US! I'LL TAKE THAT!
WURF?!
HEY, WAIT! IT'S STILL OUR TURN!
CONTESTANTS WHO'VE BEEN DISQUALIFIED DON'T GET TURNS!

IT MAY HAVE BEEN THAT MUTT THAT STARTED ALL THIS NONSENSE, BUT YOUR VERUCA JOINED IN! YOU'VE BOTH FORFEITED THE MASCOT CONTEST!
WHAT?!
GEE WHIZ!
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT!
YEAH? IF YOU HADN'T HAD YOUR NOSE IN THE AIR ABOUT...
HOLD IT, GUYS! THERE'S NOTHING TO FIGHT ABOUT!
WHO SAYS?
WE DO! YOUR DOGS WENT WRONG, BUT FOR THE RIGHT REASON!
FACT IS, THEY CLEARLY LOVE RUNNING MORE THAN ANYTHING!
THEY'D MAKE GREAT MASCOTS FOR OUR TRACK TEAM!
REALLY?
YAY!
AND SO...
GOTTA ADMIT, VERUCA LOVES THIS!
PLUTO, TOO! I'M NOT SURE WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE SQUIRRELS AND GOPHERS THINK, THOUGH!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in
A DUCK IN THE WORKS
WHEN I HIRED YOU, DUCK, I TOLD YOU TO GET HERE BY FIVE MINUTES TO NINE!
BUT...
D 8744
...MY WATCH SAYS TEN MINUTES TO NINE!
THE CLOCKS HERE ARE ALL CHIMING NINE! YOU'RE LATE! DON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN!
OKAY, I'LL RESET MY WATCH!
CLANG!
DING!
DONG!
DING! DONG!
CLANG!
DING!
DONG!
DONG!
AS TO THAT WATCH, IT'S CHEAP AND NASTY! TOTALLY INAPPROPRIATE FOR THIS SHOP! TAKE IT OFF!
BUT NOW I CAN'T TELL WHAT TIME IT IS!
Huh?

ONE THING YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LOSE TRACK OF AROUND HERE IS THE TIME!
Heh! OF COURSE!
TAKE THIS AND DUST ALL THE CLOCKS ON DISPLAY, VERY CAREFULLY! I'LL BE IN MY OFFICE!
YOU CAN RELY ON ME!
I'LL START WITH THE BIG BOYS HERE!
NOW FOR THE LITTLE— OOPS!
WHOA THERE!
JUST IN TIME— YIPES!
Ahem!

Hmm... Um-hmm... AH! THERE'S ONE!
NO SMUDGE GET'S BY ME, BY GOLLY!
Oh, HI BOSS! DIDN'T SEE YOU COME BACK!
I MUST SAY, I'M IMPRESSED WITH YOUR DILIGENCE!
JUST DOING MY DUTY!
EXCELLENT! NOW GIVE THIS ONE A REALLY GOOD CLEANING, INSIDE AND OUT! AND POLISH THE PENDULUM!
YOU GOT IT!
INDEED! IT HAS QUITE A UNIQUE SYSTEM OF CHIMES! THIS CLIENT IS VERY FUSSY, SO BE VERY THOROUGH!
"THOROUGH" IS MY MIDDLE NAME!
ONE OF MY MOST VALUED CLIENTS HAS SHOWN GREAT INTEREST IN THIS ONE! I'M OFF TO BRING HIM 'ROUND TO TAKE A LOOK!
MUST BE PRETTY SPECIAL, THEN.

BEFORE LONG...
THERE! I BET THIS CLOCK HAS NEVER LOOKED AS GOOD AS THIS BEFORE! NOW FOR THE INSIDE!
Hmm... I'LL HAVE TO SQUEEZE BEHIND THE PENDULUM TO GET AT EVERYTHING!
BING!
BANG!
BONG!
BING!
YIKES! IT'S STARTED CHIMING!
OOPS! FORGOT TO KEEP AN EYE ON MY CLEANING CLOTH!
WHIRRRR!
BOING!
DOINGG!
BING! BONG!
BING! BANG!
BETTER NOT GET A FINGER IN THE GEARS!
NOW THE CLOCK'S JAMMED! I'VE GOTTA GET IT UNSTUCK!
MAYBE A REAL GOOD PULL AND IT'LL... URRRGH!

NOPE! THAT'S JUST MADE IT WORSE! NOW WHAT?
RRRINNNG!
I'VE GOTTA GET THIS SORTED OUT OR THE MANAGER WILL— Uh-Oh! THE SHOP BELL! PLEASE LET IT BE A CUSTOMER!
BUT...
DRAT! THE BOSS!
SO THIS IS THE CLOCK YOU HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT! IT LOOKS LIKE A FINE PIECE OF WORK! AND SO WELL KEPT!
YES IT IS! I HAVE AN ASSISTANT WHO IS DEVOTED TO KEEPING ALL MY WARES IN TIP-TOP CONDITION!
JUST LISTEN TO THAT MOVEMENT! SO QUIET AND SMOOTH!
ABSOLUTELY QUIET! AMAZING! ONE WOULD THINK THE CLOCK WASN'T RUNNING AT ALL!
THE BEST FEATURE, OF COURSE, IS THE CHIMES! A REAL MASTERPIECE OF THE CLOCKMAKER'S ART!
I SEE WE ARE COMING UP ON 12 O'CLOCK! I SHALL AWAIT THE TOLL OF THE HOUR!
THERE! JUST LISTEN TO THAT!
MARVELOUS! THE RANGE IS ASTOUNDING, THE TONES SUBLIME!
BING! BANG! BONG! BING!
WHEW! TOUGH KEEPING THIS UP! I'M LOSING COUNT OF THE STROKES!

NOW, I NEED TO CHIME "12"! SO I HIT THIS BELL...
CLONK!
CLONK?!
THERE WAS SOMEONE INSIDE!
MY ASSISTANT! HE'S OBVIOUSLY READY FOR HIS NEXT ASSIGNMENT!
HE LOOKS A BIT FRAZZLED TO ME!
GLACK!
Oh, BELIEVE ME, HE'S STILL FRESH AS A DAISY! PLENTY OF PEP FOR THIS!
THAT'S THE LARGEST CUCKOO CLOCK I'VE EVER SEEN!
AH, THEN MAY I GIVE YOU A LITTLE DEMONSTRATION OF HOW IT WORKS?
WOULDN'T SAY NO!
SOON...
QUOOKOO! QUOOKOO!
ALMOST GOT IT THAT TIME! TRY AGAIN!
THERE YOU GO! GOT IT WORKING PERFECTLY NOW!
CUCKOO! CUCKOO! CUCKOO!
The End

E-mail: dd@gemstonepub.com
Surface mail: Donald Duck, 1966 Greenspring Drive Ste. 400, Timonium MD 21093.

It occurs to me that there is something of a great irony to be found in Gorm Transgaard and Vicar's "Snooper by the Book," in *Donald Duck and Friends* 315. It seemed folly from the start that Donald would stake so much of his newfound successful career as a "Finder of Lost Persons" on the indispensable wisdom of a *book* he carried with him constantly. Then, I realized this is virtually the same function that the Junior Woodchucks Guidebook fulfills for his intrepid nephews.

I suppose it's just Donald's unfortunate lot in life that one essential book extricates nephews and uncles alike from dangerous situations and provides needed inspiration on demand, enhancing HD&L's reputation for resourcefulness, and another is "eaten by the dog" at a crucial moment of celebrity for Don.

Poor Mickey can't seem to catch a break in this title, either! He can't open a simple book without being transported to the mythical land of Shambor, nor can he open an odd bottle without releasing a centuries old "Archfiend." An annoying sort of archfiend to boot, who incessantly spouts the most overblown funnybook dialogue this side of Silver Age Marvel comics.

Even archfiends are not without "hang-ups" however, as Bagarthach's ego apparently has him continuously inflicting "mild tortures" upon Mickey, rather than directly asking him for assistance in getting home. Minnie would probably say, "Hmmph! He probably would never stop and ask for directions, either!"

Lastly, let us remember Pete Alvarado in these pages. Mr. Alvarado passed away in January at the age of 83. While Alvarado didn't do very much with Donald or Mickey, he was an artistic mainstay of the Dell and Gold Key Comics to which we Gemstone readers owe so much. Alvarado had long and successful runs on such Disney titles as *The Beagle Boys, The Beagle Boys vs. Uncle Scrooge,* and *Super Goof.* His work was more often found in comics featuring Warner Brothers and Hanna-Barbera characters, with his last new H-B character work appearing in the mid- to late-nineties. Alvarado also worked with directors Chuck Jones and Robert McKimson at Warner Brothers Animation.

*Joe Torciwia*
*via email*

*Thanks for the update on Pete Alvarado, Joe. It's always sad to learn of the passing of someone whose work entertained us as kids — and whose name we probably never knew.*

Gorm Transgaard...the more stories of his you publish, the better I say. The tried-and-true genre of Donald becoming a master at his chosen profession has a worthy addition in "Snooper By The Book." I don't think Donald's used a book to better effect. Even when he loses the book at the end, he tries to make do by thinking what advice the detective tome *would* have given him. The only criticism I have of the story is the ending, where the nephews say Donald can't ever find anything. For all his arrogance and reliance on the book, Donald did manage to do a good job of detecting for most of the story. Even without the book, he tries his level best (perhaps predictably, failing however). The poor guy managed to reunite long lost lovers for crying out loud. That surely deserves some praise from the nephews!

A mention about Vicar's art for the story: My impression is that Vicar doesn't necessarily get much praise/acknowledgement in the Disney comics world. Sure, he doesn't have the extreme detail of Don Rosa, or the zaniness of William Van Horn. Maybe that's the "problem." Vicar's art is sort of middle-of-the-road in style, making it easier to overlook. As for me, I've always appreciated his style and felt that it did a good job of conveying the feeling/emotions of the story. And if an artist can do that, "good" is the minimum of adjectives that should be ascribed to him.

I admire Don Markstein for several reasons, one of which is his online Toonopedia. Anyone with even a passing interest in comics and cartoons would do well to pay his site a visit. Another thing that I admire about him is the way his stories can stretch a fantastic element over an entire story and not have it become tiresome. Don did it with his robotic Watson story and again with "Bagarthach The Arch-Fiend." Baggie was a rather unexpected addition to the story going by its beginning, but it was interesting to see how Mickey took the fiend in stride and even became a little bored by him. I thought the ending was a nice touch. Might also be an explanation for why Baggy wasn't such a great arch-fiend in the first place. The guy just didn't have it in him!

*Derek Smith*
*via email*

*The website for Toonopedia is (predictably) www.toonopedia.com and it is indeed worth a look. Many people share your enthusiasm for Vicar's artwork, Derek. Be assured that you'll see lots more of it in these pages.*

*—John Clark*

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